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IMPORTANCE OF PURE WATER IN CITIES.

[FROM the Annual Report on Meteorology and Epidemics for 1846, read before the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia in February last by Dr. Moore, we extract the following statistical remarks, which, though more particularly applicable to that city, are worthy the attention of dwellers in all large towns and cities.]

Philadelphia, in the lapse of forty years, has undergone many changes. The buildings have been extended over double the space, and its population has been multiplied nearly three fold. The establishment of large manufactories, and the consequent introduction of the numerous classes engaged in the various arts, may be supposed to have placed a larger number of infants in a condition to receive cholera infantum; and that, from the absence of that care and attention so necessary for their proper nurture, and the sustaining of their vital powers, the mortality may have been probably increased; while it will be conceded, that these baneful causes are many and increasing, it cannot be uninteresting if we inquire whether there do not exist countervailing circumstances, whose character and influence ought to engage the attention of every practitioner and enlightened philanthropist.

Water is an indispensable element of life. The quality of this fluid, and the extent of the supply, have great influence on the health and comfort of every individual; that which is obtained from the pumps and wells is found to have imbibed, in its passage through the various strata of the earth, principles whereby its salubrious character is impaired. In large and populous cities the abundant filth deposited in the sinks and privies percolating through the soil, cannot fail to impart much of its noxious materials, thus contaminating the water and destroying its grateful flavor; as it flows in the rivers and streams these impurities are gradually removed, and it again becomes an agreeable and wholesome drink; hence the preference so generally given to the water procured from the latter sources to that furnished from the pumps and wells in large and crowded towns, where it is necessarily exposed to so many vitiating causes.

Aware of these sources of pollution, the enlightened citizens of Philadelphia directed their attention to the means, if possible, of removing the evil. Application was made to the Legislature, and in 1769 an act was passed whereby it was rendered unlawful to carry the privies and sinks beyond the clay found at a specified depth below the surface of the earth. The

clay, it was hoped, would prove a barrier to the passage of any impurities from these receptacles of filth. These measures did not effectually correct the evil. Other motives may likewise have been added by which the City Councils were induced to furnish the inhabitants with water from the Schuylkill; the first attempt was made in 1798, and the water was conveyed by a tunnel to the square at the intersection of Market and Broad streets; here a reservoir was erected from which the water was distributed through different parts of the city. The supply was inadequate to the general wants of the inhabitants; the water was generally turbid, and few families being provided with cisterns and filtering machines, most people resorted to the pumps to allay their thirst, and the supply from the Schuylkill was employed in cooking and many of the ordinary domestic purposes.

Until the works were erected at Fairmount and an abundant supply of water secured, few baths were to be found in private houses. From these works, a larger and more ample supply was furnished for the cleansing of the streets; the water was introduced into many of the dwellings; baths and other means greatly contributing to domestic comfort became common throughout the city. The regulations respecting the depth to which privies and sinks might be dug ceased to be published, and gradually became obsolete, without being abolished; the receptacles for filth were allowed to extend down to running water, and the offensive effluvia emanating from them were in a great measure obviated; the effect on the water drawn from the pumps was soon perceived; but by the help of cisterns and filtering machines, from the Schuylkill river a pure and limpid water was obtained, to which a refreshing temperature was imparted by the aid of ice which has now become one of the common necessaries of life.

In 1826, the Schuylkill water was carried into the District of Southwark; and in the same year, the Districts of the Northern Liberties and that of Spring Garden, each received a partial supply; these districts received an additional supply, though still an imperfect one, in 1831; it was not until 1833 that any portion of this water was furnished to the village of Kensington.

During a period of ten years, beginning with 1807 and ending with 1816, the total mortality recorded amounted to 20,316, of which number 1,597 deaths are referred to cholera infantum; about seven per cent. The disease appears to have been particularly fatal in 1810, when nine per cent. of the deaths proceeded from this source. In 1816 only four per cent. of the deaths were from this complaint. Not being in possession of the annual reports since 1844, we have selected a like record of ten years, concluding with the year just mentioned; within this term we find the mortality from all diseases to have been 54,403; cholera infantum having contributed 2,589 to the list; not quite five per cent. Within this period is included 1838, when an extraordinary degree of heat prevailed during the summer months; the mean temperature of that season was 77°; the mortality from cholera infantum was great, being in the proportion of rather more than seven per cent.

The periods selected, each of ten years, are sufficiently extended to afford the means of a fair comparison. In the interval of twenty years, those important changes may have taken place in the character of the population of this city, and in their habits and modes of life, which time is observed to effect. In the lapse of nearly forty years, the population of Philadelphia and the contiguous districts has fully doubled; this accession of numbers has arisen from the congregation of persons engaged in the humbler occupations connected with the various arts and trade of a manufacturing city. The dwellings of these classes have not been improved in point of ventilation; their domestic habits have not permitted the mothers to pay more assiduous attention to their tender offspring; and yet the foul emanations from the privies having been diminished, and an adequate supply of a purer water, one of the elements so essential to health, secured, we perceive a new condition of our city, more favorable to the preservation of life in children of a tender age. This view, if correct, is a cheering one. It opens the prospect, that by due attention to the laws of hygiene, the arts and occupations of civilized life may be more extensively introduced into our cities, without impairing the health of the inhabitants.

Though but little importance can be attached to the evidence afforded by a single case, yet as it was the means of eliciting the remarks just made, the history may not improperly be introduced.

A child laboring under cholera, for the benefit of country air was removed to a place distant about four miles from the city, and situate in the direction of Germantown. The water procured from a spring on the premises was adapted to the washing of clothes, and therefore in popular language termed soft. The child did not improve as was expected, her bowels still continuing irritable. Reflecting on all the circumstances, it was supposed that the water in use might be impregnated with some salts capable of offending her tender organs, rendered particularly susceptible by previous disease. It was therefore proposed to substitute that supplied from the Schuylkill, which had become perfectly limpid by remaining for some time in a cistern. In a short time the benefit was obvious, and she soon became convalescent.

The foregoing views receive a strong confirmation from the observations presented by Dr. W. Heberden, and published in the first volume of the Transactions of the London College of Physicians. At the instance of some friends he had been led to examine the character of the water as procured from the pumps and wells of the British metropolis. The authority cannot fail to command respect, and the extracts will impart greater interest to the present communication.

"The springs in so large a city, besides their natural contents, must collect many additional impurities from cellars, burying grounds, common sewers, and many other offensive places, with which they undoubtedly often communicate, so that it is indeed a wonder that we find this water at all tolerable. The uninterrupted drinking of such waters for a long time may probably be the cause of many diseases, especially to the infirm, and to children. Hence a change of place may often be of as

much use to weak persons from the change of water, as of air." In another passage, when noticing the greater salubrity of the New River water, then lately introduced into London, he states "that when freed of this muddiness by filtration, or by the slower process of subsidence, the river is rendered palateable and wholesome." Then follows this remarkable passage. "If the water given to very young children were all of this kind, it might, perhaps, prevent some of the bowel disorders, and so contribute a little to lessen the amazing mortality among the children, which are attempted to be brought up in London."

DR. DICK'S ALPHABETICAL NOTICES OF SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE TREATMENT OF DYSPEPSIA.

[Continued from page 395.]

COLOCYNTH.—In England, we regard colocynth as a useful and safe purgative, when properly combined and given in proper doses. In France, they have what we cannot help considering a groundless jealousy of it. There is no doubt, however, that it disagrees with some persons, causing very marked irritation in the stomach and bowels, attended with thirst, griping, &c. We have been consulted by two married women, sisters, in one of whom colocynth causes syncope, and something approaching to it in the other. It may be proper to state that these women belong to what is called the better ranks, and have many of the luxuries and enervating habits which too much prevail there. I have elsewhere quoted (see "Derangements, Primary and Reflex, of the Organs of Digestion," page 335) the singular and acute observation of Broussais, which I beg leave here to re-quote. "Si l'on y fait une serieuse attention, ou reconnaitra que l'education rend les hommes plus attentifs à ce que se passe dans leurs viscères, et leur apprend à se sentir d'une manière plus exquise. L'homme stupide et à demi civilisé a quelquefois les viscères disorganizés avant qu'il se plaigne; l'homme d'esprit et celui qui est livré aux arts d'imagination, est si fidelement averti du bien etre et du malaise de ses organes, qu'il appelle toujours du secours de bonne heure." He adds, that in the military hospitals persons of intelligence and education always gave him much less trouble in forming his diagnosis of their diseases, than persons ignorant and stupid. Every practitioner of the slightest experience will acknowledge the justice of these remarks.*

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* In the work above referred to I have given (pp. 334, 5) a singular case of preternatural sensibility to the action of various drugs. It was that of a lady, long subject to a very complicated form of irritability of the stomach and bowels, and who was for a considerable period under my care. She was and is a woman of superior intellectual acquirement and cultivation, and her imagination is extremely excitable. She was never married. I shall simply quote my own words:—

"Tonic medicines she detects by their producing a tightness of the temples. A grain of carbonate of iron, taken once or twice a-day for two or three days, is sufficient to cause her to complain of the sensation referred to, even when purposely kept unacquainted with what she is in the receipt of; which, to test the truth of her statement, I have disguised in every way. Sedative medicines, such as hyoscyamus, conium, &c., she detects by their producing a dryness of the tongue. Doses of ten drops of a solution of a drachm of the extract of hyoscyamus, in an ounce of orange-flower water, caused this feeling. Ten drops of a solution of a scruple of nitrate of potass, in an ounce of rose water, produces a sensation of chilliness. Five drops of antimonial wine, or the sixth part of a grain of ipecacuanha, causes the most decided nausea, and sometimes vomiting."

But though idiosyncrasy may render colocynth inadmissible in a few cases, and morbid susceptibility in the ventriculo-intestinal mucous membrane may oppose difficulties in some others, yet in the majority, the extract of colocynth, combined with blue pill or rhubarb, as need may be, is an efficient and sufficiently safe purgative. Except in persons who will bear, or who require, energy of treatment, the union and simultaneous administration of aloes and colocynth demand caution, as their combined operation is occasionally harsh. Scammony may be advantageously combined with colocynth. Gamboge is often so combined by some, and many of the patent aperient pills include one or both ingredients. Neither, however, in this nor in any other combination does the writer prescribe or recommend gamboge, being satisfied, from repeated observation, that it invariably does more harm than good.

Colocynth should generally be guarded in its action by antispasmodics and carminatives, such as assafœtida, canella, cardamom, &c.

Colon.—We have not much to add, under this head, to the remarks on the cæcum in a former number (see p. 222), and which, to a great extent, apply equally to the colon. We have not, however, referred to the many obscure symptoms and affections of distant organs, often occasioned by loaded and deranged states of the great bowel. Thus palpitation and dyspnœa are not unfrequent consequences of impacted or greatly flatulect conditions of the colon, owing to pressure of its transverse portion on the descending aorta. From a similar pressure on the vena cava inferior, varices of the veins of the thigh and leg, swelling of the feet, hæmorrhoids, anal or uterine hæmorrhages, may result.

There is little doubt that from preternaturally sordid states of the colon absorption into the circulation of excrementitious matters takes place, causing morbid changes in the secretions, sensibly offensive conditions of the respiration and of the cutaneous transpiration, and often palpable disease of the cutaneous membrane; sometimes foul and dangerous abscesses. Further, from the prolonged contact of scybala and hardened fæces in the cells of the great bowel, ulcerations of its mucous surfaces by no means unfrequently occur, apt to lead to the most grave consequences, such as dysentery, or absorption of pus or excrement into the portal circulation, ending in either diffused inflammation or disseminated abscesses of the liver. Such results are more frequent than is usually supposed.

In ordinary cases, the best evacuant of the colon, in its loaded and preternaturally offensive state, is a bolus, at night, of blue pill, aloes and myrrh, followed next morning by a dose of castor oil, with or without a turpentine enema. Turpentine, as I have already remarked, has a most cordially stimulating and corrective effect in loaded, torpid, fœtid and flatulent states of the cæcum and colon. In some cases it is necessary to repeat the above bolus, on alternate nights, for a week or ten days, before the desired subsidence and softness of the abdomen, in the track of the cæcum and colon, are obtained; by which we are assured that the great bowel is disembarrassed of long-formed accumulations. A course of vegetable bitters and laxatives, such as aloes and taraxacum, and in-

jections of cinchona and oak-bark decoction, are simultaneously to be employed.

There may be some grounds to suspect that the following interesting and rather obscure case is one, partly at least, of disease of the great bowel. It is that of a highly respectable gentleman in general practice, who, though unknown to me, has been pleased to request my opinion of his case. He is 72 years of age, and resides in the country, and is unable to come to town, and hitherto I have been prevented from getting to his place. It is with his sanction that I give the following details of the case, as contained in a letter to myself. After stating, as his reason for not coming to London, that a late journey by railway had brought on hæmorrhage from "some part of the urinary apparatus," he proceeds:—

"I shall therefore attempt to describe my symptoms; and although it is most unsatisfactory, and, I fear, troublesome to you to read the details, yet I shall be thankful if you will tell me what you think of my state. I have, from time to time, consulted very many of the most eminent members of the profession, but they have not clearly understood my case, and have not relieved me. Dr. ——— thought my disease was in the cæcum; others, that it was in the colon; others, in the liver; and that my sufferings were from flatulence and acid. Mr. ——— examined the rectum more than a year ago, and found some thickening of the mucous membrane from inflammation. My motions, when figured, are rather flattened, but not small. Mr. ——— advised only opium suppositories, and not injections, and castor oil occasionally. I have a small hæmorrhoidal excrescence, and there never has been any pain in the rectum. The motions are in general healthy. I go to bed between 10 and 11, in a pretty easy state; pass some urine, and sleep till 3 or 4 in the morning, when I take a cup of tea, with a slice of bread and butter, and pass some more urine. The tea seems to soothe me; but about five or six, I am seized with a violent griping pain, great flatulence and distention, which continue for a longer or shorter time. At 8 o'clock I take two ounces of warm milk, and have soon after a pulpy motion, with some, though not much effort. I pass urine again, during which I suffer from * and wind. I then take half a grain of acetate of morphia, and immediately suffer from pain of the most distressing and indescribable kind. I then take breakfast of tea and dry toast, and get a little relief. I dine at 3, and take then a little mutton, mealy potatoes, suet pudding, and three ounces of brandy and water, very weak; and continue to feel easier, though distended. At 6 o'clock I take tea, and become comfortable till 5 or 6 next morning. I sup between 9 and 10, on half a pint of Reid's mild porter, and a bit of bread and butter. I have no tenderness anywhere on pressure. My tongue is pretty clean, and my pulse is only 60. I have had, for more than twenty years, numbness and coldness of feet and hands, and I have had for several months pain in my loins. Stooping is most painful to me. I also have severe pain in my shoulders, when I move my arms backward. I have also pain in the

* A word here occurs, which the transcriber cannot make out.

gluteal muscles. I am 72 years old, and have been a hard-working general practitioner, but always a healthy and active man, with more than the usual share of mental sufferings."

On account of the nature of this case, and the age of the invalid, I declined giving an opinion or suggesting any system of treatment, until I have an opportunity (which I anticipate) of a personal interview.

CASES OF INHALATION OF ETHER IN LABOR.

BY WALTER CHANNING, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. R., aged 18; first child. Taken with uterine pain June 10, at 5, A. M. Saw her between 3 and 4, P. M. Labor well marked—pains severe—complaint of suffering emphatic. Examination showed natural presentation, and good progress. Pains increased gradually in strength, and the head reached the outlet favorably. It here made slight if any progress. At length, notwithstanding very severe pains, it hardly advanced at all. Between 8 and 9 it reached the external organs, and the perineum was pressed somewhat forward. Here again it rested. The perineum was very slightly dilatable. Pains now diminished in force, and the intervals became longer. Still distress was great. I sent for, and exhibited ether. The pulse, respiration, and temperature, were natural. At first Mrs. R. refused the sponge, and this with much determination. At length she consented to breathe at it, and was in about a minute fairly under the influence of the vapor. The sponge was removed, and placed at a distance from her in the bed. Pains continued regular, and soon became stronger, and intervals shorter. The perineum became dilatable, and the head advanced. Some return of consciousness took place, it would seem of pain, and of the relief she had experienced from the inhalation, for without being seen she got possession of the sponge, and breathed at it with the greatest avidity, so that when discovered it was with much difficulty forced away. The child was born in four or five pains after etherization. The placenta was soon thrown off—the womb contracted well, and a swathe was carefully applied.

The return to consciousness was slow. There was exhibited more excitement than I have before met with. There was a full expression of previous most perfect freedom from suffering. A state of entire pleasure was expressed. She sung, talked, raised her arms high in the air. She did not recollect me, or anybody about her. Her child's cries, which were very loud, attracted strongly her notice. She passed her hand over her abdomen firmly, as if to learn what had happened, and her countenance expressed much surprise. Pulse continued natural; complexion good; temperature, as during labor. Some hemorrhage, but not enough to do harm. She said she was very hungry, and thirsty, and took with much relish gruel, and water. After-pains occurred in about half an hour after labor was over, with much severity, and for which I prescribed cam-

phor and opium in pills. I left her otherwise comfortable. Slight hemorrhage.

June 11th. 9, A. M.—Pulse, &c., good, no tenderness of abdomen. After-pains increased, and troubled her all night. Exist now. Great increase of pain by motion, so that I removed urine by catheter, as motion for this function she feared would give great distress. Felt better after operation. Hemorrhage considerable in night, but not sufficient to do harm. 6, P. M. More comfortable; less pain. Prescribed Dover's powder for pill. Ol. ric. in the morning.

12th. 6, P. M.—Detained by obstetric case all day, and could not see Mrs. R. before. I found her very comfortable. Oil has operated well. Night had been perfectly good. Looks remarkably well. Pulse good. Abdomen soft, free from soreness or pain.

13th.—Perfectly well. Some milk in breasts. I now inquired particularly as to consciousness during labor, and immediately after. Remembers nothing. Is surprised at questions, so wholly unconscious as they show her to herself, to have been.

June 12th.—Mrs. A. W., 25; first labor. For three weeks last past, she has suffered much from pain referred to womb. At times so severe that she thought of sending for nurse, and physician. Last night, at 12, in absence of pain, membranes broke and a large quantity of water was discharged. I was called to see her between 1 and 2, as pains had begun. I found the os uteri dilated somewhat, dilatable, very thin at its edges, and continuing so some distance towards neck. Pains regular but slight. I went to bed, to be called when needed. At 6, I found pains had continued all night. Os uteri more dilated. Went home. Called again between 8 and 9. I now found much change had occurred. Os uteri had nearly disappeared, and yielding to very small pressure. Head presenting well, and quite low in pelvis. From the severity of the pains, and the generally favorable state of things, I resolved to use ether. This was done about 9, A. M. Its first effect was excitement. There were startings, exclamations, the arms were projected. "I am dying, I am dying," said Mrs. W. I had my finger on the wrist, and carefully examined the pulse. It was about 90 before etherization. It rose to 98; and this was its number, with temporary changes, during the whole of the labor after ether. Excitement soon passed by, and a pleasant calm succeeded. The expressions were now of pleasure only. "How beautiful! how beautiful!" was the language of the labor. The state of etherization was moderately sustained during the whole day. Mrs. W. had some latent feeling about the remedy which much influenced the case. She would vehemently demand the sponge, and that it should be thoroughly wet with ether. She would put it aside, as soon as she began to feel its effects. At times, however, she would experience its full effects. She was thus by no means wholly unconscious. I mean in that degree of it as to be unaware of people and things around her. Sometimes she would say, "I know you, Dr. C.," "I know you, Mrs. F.," &c. &c.; as if to let us understand that though she was unconscious of pain, she knew all

other things. She would say, when demanding the sponge, "don't be afraid of hurting me. I know just how much I want, and will tell you when to take it away." And this was done after a manner which I have seen in no other case. The labor was delayed by the state of the perineum. It was very wide, leaving the os externum very small. Through this protruded a round mass of scalp, and a conical-shaped bony mass of skull. The occiput had fairly cleared the arch of the pubis, and still delivery did not take place. After an ointment of ext. of belladonna and simple cerate was liberally used, inside the vagina, and over the perineum, dilatation took place readily, and the child was born. There was perfect abolition of pain in this closing period of labor, and when suffering is, I may say, always so great. The womb contracted well. The placenta was easily detached by natural effort, and, with some coagula, was expelled. A swathe was applied. Child, a female, weighing seven and a half pounds. It did not breathe immediately after head was born, but soon breathed after cold water was dashed on its face and breast, and did perfectly well. During the labor, ʒ j. ergot was infused in about ʒ vi. boiling water, and the tea without the powder taken. Some increase of pain undoubtedly followed its use. The bladder was emptied with the catheter once during the day.

Labor began in this case at 12 the preceding night, and was ended at 6, P. M., the following day. The ether was first inhaled between 8 and 9, A. M., and its influence was sustained, as above described, till nearly 6, P. M. Mrs. W. described her state, when consciousness returned after labor, as one of perfect ease and enjoyment. She had not a pain. She had little memory of pain. The ether had made tolerable what she thought she could hardly have lived through without. She had been in labor, she said, three weeks; her nights disturbed and her days most uncomfortable. She expressed her gratitude for this means of her comfort after a manner which I have not heard paralleled. I left her with a calm pulse, manner perfectly natural, skin temperate, head free from pain, abdomen easy, eyes closed, and sleep approaching.

13th. 10, A. M.—Night good. Slight pain in abdomen in night occurred three times. Five grains of Dover's powder were given, and perfect quiet followed. Pulse 84; abdomen soft; lochia natural; no urine, has attempted to pass it, but failed. Catheter, about twenty ounces taken away. In all respects doing well. 10, P. M. Day very comfortable. Has slight uneasiness in the region of the heart, to which she has long been subject. Has failed to pass urine, and catheter was used. Ol. ric., suc. limon, ää ʒ ij., M. in the morning.

14th. 9, A. M.—Excellent night. Urine natural. Two free dejections from oil. Pulse, &c., natural. Milk, without any precursory disturbance or excitement. Is nursing her child.

15th.—Quite as well, except some trouble about lactation.

June 14th.—Mrs. G. W. A., 36; fourth child. Labor began Friday, 11th. Physician called Saturday, 12th, at 8, A. M. Labor pains distinct, strong; head at upper part of pelvis, or rather a cushiony tumor

of which the diagnosis was not easy. This state of things continued. He passed Saturday night with his patient, because of the severity of the labor. Sunday, 13th, things much the same. Membranes broke P. M., and a large quantity of water came away. Still the head remained much where it was. The os uteri dilatable, soft, spongy, as if infiltrated. He passed the night again with his patient. Monday morning I saw her at 8, A. M., about sixty hours from beginning of labor, and forty-eight of continuous suffering.

The presentation was just what and where it was when first discovered. A firm, somewhat elastic tumor filled the pelvis. I did not, at my first examination, feel any portion of the cranium. The tumor felt very much like a blood tumor of great size. It remained tense in *the intervals* of pains, and did not seem more tense during pains. I advised the use of ether at once, to lessen the severe suffering of the patient, and having directed how it was to be used, left, to see a patient whose situation made an early visit very important. I returned between 8 and 9. Partial relief had been gained by the ether; suffering was less. I examined again with much care, and could make out towards the right sacro-iliac synchondrosis the well-defined *edge of a bone.* I pressed the presenting tumor here very firmly, and could find no bone opposite to or in the neighborhood of that against which my finger had rested. I now felt satisfied that the case was one of hydrocephalus, and that it was water which I felt behind the scalp, and which formed the tumor. The ether was used. Perfect unconsciousness did not take place more than once, but the diminution of suffering was most striking, and the ether more and more emphatically demanded. The perforator was now carried through the distended scalp, and a gush of water at once followed. Nearly a quart was received into a vessel, while a very large quantity escaped into the bed and guard. Extraction was now made, and after a few ineffectual efforts, the head advanced. The difficulty was in the loose condition of the bones, and the thinness of the scalp. The hook, from these circumstances, frequently broke itself away. The ether was still used. Entire abolition of consciousness was produced. The pulse continued steadily at about 100, the number when first examined. If anything it was quicker at my first visit than during the use of the ether, and while extraction was proceeding. The child was born slowly, and easily after the head had fairly entered the pelvis. The placenta followed readily. A swathe was applied, and the patient made easy and comfortable in her bed. Child's head consisted of loose cranial bones, thin scalp, and a large cavity. Spina bifida at lower part of spine. It seemed impossible for Mrs. A. to express the gratitude she felt for the pleasure and the ease afforded to her by the ether. It was astonishing to her, that she who had always suffered so much in labor, and for so many nights and days in this last one, and who after former labor had been in such distress—it seemed most wonderful to her to feel now so easy and so happy. I left her in this state at about 11, A. M.

5, P. M.—Saw Mrs. A. She has been perfectly comfortable all day, has slept much, passed water twice, no after pains; much meteorism,

but no hardness, soreness or pain of abdomen. Respiration easy; countenance easy, and has lost that contraction which the long experience of acute pain gave it, and has acquired the appearance of healthy fulness. Complexion natural. Pulse 108, soft. Says she is perfectly free from uneasiness of any kind. Is provisionally to take ʒ ij. ol. ric. and suc. lim. each, in morning, and five grains pulv. Dover, if need be, to-night.

15th. 10, A.M.—Pulse 108. Abdomen less full. Respiration easy. Temperature natural. Night good. Has taken oil. No dejection.

16th. 9, A. M.—Pulse 104. Two dejections. Urine natural. Without any uneasiness when at rest. Is annoyed by motion, the whole body being sore, from long-continued and violent labor.

Remarks.—Mrs. R.'s case presents the full effects of ether perhaps more strikingly than either of the others. That is, in her they were more perfectly produced. Still the time was short of their continuance, and not any cause for uneasiness marked any of its periods. The sponge which she reached and held with so much force had become almost or quite dry, as some time had passed from its first application. Her case is also striking as presenting perhaps the most perfect want of memory met with in any case I have witnessed.

Mrs. W.'s case. In this case ether was used nearly or quite nine hours. But except in its first inhalation, and the latest, nothing like its full effect was manifested. She managed the use of it herself. That is, she asked for it when she thought it was needed, namely, when a pain was coming on, and threw it by her as soon as she felt its influence approaching. Again and again she has assured me that her suffering after etherization was as nothing compared with her former state, and the *last pains were not felt at all.* The case differs from others in the whole agency of the patient during this long trial of ether. I have never known so much used, and certainly its effects could not have been more happy. The consciousness of the period when ether was used had been matter of distinct memory since. There were misgivings among her friends as to the expediency of its use, for they knew that she had formerly suffered severely from headache; but this was never stated to me. She had suffered also from pain in the region of the heart; but of this, also, I knew nothing till it occurred slightly the day after labor, when it was referred to by Mrs. W. It is suggested that it will always be well to learn if peculiarities exist in patients, or if morbid predispositions may be supposed to belong to them. In the above case, however, nothing occurred for a moment to disturb the feeling of the entire safety of the patient.

Mrs. A.'s case differs from all the others. But its history leaves very little to be added. Relief of suffering was as marked in her case as in any I have met with. I have never seen insensibility more strikingly produced by ether. She was for a short time as in the deepest, most tranquil sleep. This was at the close of the labor. It saved her all pain in the time of ordinarily the greatest suffering. She is recovering, though less rapidly than the others, but still quite as fast as the early history of her case would have led any one to expect.

SHIP FEVER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A GREAT deal has been said of late by the secular press, and to very little purpose, about *ship fever*. The public mind has been needlessly thrown into alarm, and sundry medical men have been striving to get up a panic, which is wholly uncalled for.

The facts, if rightly understood and spread before the people, will allay groundless apprehensions, and we invoke the aid of the secular press on this behalf. The famine in Ireland has hurried the rapid tide of immigration into this country, bringing a famishing multitude, crowding the steerage of every packet and passenger vessel, on board of which many have suffered for want of food and even of water, while occupying filthy and unventilated apartments. These throngs of emigrants, thus unfavorably circumstanced, have, by the exhalations from their bodies, already enfeebled and emaciated by starvation at home, fallen victims to their unavoidable violation of the laws of both health and life. A malignant and fatal fever has been generated on board ship, of which many have died on the passage, while still more have been landed either already sick, or so infected by the atmospheric poison that they soon develope it, in a form no less dangerous and fatal than that which has proved mortal on board the vessels which brought them hither. Hence the appearance of this fever in most of our Atlantic cities, in some of which there has arisen much excitement and alarm, by reason of its appalling fatality. In the nature and character of this fever there is nothing new or peculiar, nothing, in short, with which the profession are not perfectly familiar, under the names of jail fever, hospital fever, &c. Its type is found to vary as in other endemics, but a large majority of the cases are well characterized in the books under the name of typhus petechialis, meaning no more than that variety of typhus fever in which discolorations and eruptions appear on the skin, usually about the 7th day of the disease. A striking difference is manifest between the cases even coming from the same ship; a few are both inflammatory and congestive, while in most cases this fever is purely congestive. The most constant characteristic of the attack is an overwhelming sense of prostration of strength, with the accompanying signs of what is called *indirect* debility, great mental depression, disinclination to motion, with indications of the sudden impairment of the mucous membrane lining the digestive canal, of which the tongue gives early and palpable evidence. The frequency of the pulse is remarkable, but usually small and compressible, and is improved by clearing the primæ viæ by a mild emetic or laxative. The predominant state of the skin is moisture, after the first paroxysm has terminated with or without treatment. And its fatality is owing to effusions taking place in the cavities of the brain, the result of venous congestion in that organ, and indicated by delirium and coma, very seldom accompanied by hemorrhage, and then always giving temporary relief, though generally ineffectual if occurring after the 5th day.

In the hospitals, the patients are not received until the seventh day of the

fever, except in very few cases, and hence they are at this late period too often beyond the reach of art, some vital organ having suffered in its integrity either by neglect or mal-treatment. Moreover, the constitutions of many such have been broken down by privation and hardship, so that they fail to rally even under the most powerful stimuli.

In the case of physicians, nurses, &c., who have become infected, the early symptoms being subjected to treatment, this fever is found very manageable, the few cases of mortality being ascribable to defect in constitution, some depraved habit, or relapses by errors in diet during convalescence. Medication of an active character is contra-indicated so obviously, that a physician who saw the disease for the first time would be led, on general principles, to employ but little medicine, and rely upon nutrition and cordials, after clearing the stomach and bowels by mild and gentle means. Cautious stimulation is called for in every late period of this fever, and especially after convalescence begins. The internal administration of ice and iced water, and sponging the head, face and neck with iced water, are among the most effective and successful remedies. Sinapisms and blisters to the extremities and abdomen are valuable agencies if there be any local lesion. But venesection, or even local blood-letting, is seldom if ever admissible after the first paroxysm of this fever, and then only in persons previously in good health, and when the fever is ushered in by a well-marked chill. Nor can calomel or any other active drug be safely used without great caution. Wine whey, and milk punch made with brandy, with or without quinine, are often reliable means in the later periods of the disease. Nevertheless, the sp. Mindereri, various preparations of ammonia, and other stimulating sudorifics, are often useful as auxiliaries.

The conditions of recovery are cleanliness, pure air, well ventilated apartments, and careful nursing. The absence of one or all of these explains the want of success in many hospitals. For filth, confined air, and privation of nourishment not only render the fever fatal, but may generate analogous disease anywhere, and even re-produce it in the convalescent. Hence the advantages derived from removing patients into the open air from crowded wards, as in open tents and shanties, have been demonstrated at New York in the Bellevue Hospital, and elsewhere. From the time the patients are thus placed under favorable circumstances, they rapidly recover.

LETTER FROM DR. WELLS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—I again ask your forbearance, while I say a few more words respecting the ethereal controversy. In my last communication, one point was left unnoticed through inadvertence. It had been stated in a previous No. of this Journal, that Dr. Bennet's letter in the London Lancet says that I left America for Europe before Drs. Jackson and Morton had laid claim to the discovery. Of itself, this mistake is of no importance;

but as my opponents are inclined to "catch at straws," I will for their sakes explain how Dr. Bennet became wrongly impressed. When in London, I informed Dr. Bennet that I was not aware that Drs. Jackson and Morton had made any claim to the discovery *in Europe* until I arrived there; he understanding me (as since appears) that I was not aware that they had claimed the discovery in this country.

Mr. Warren, who has been employed by Dr. Morton to vindicate his cause, seems inclined to misrepresent my sayings and doings in every possible manner. In his pamphlet just published, he affirms that I have made a variety of statements respecting the number of patients on whom I have operated with the use of the gas. I will quote a few words from his pamphlet. "When Dr. Wells first laid claim to this discovery, he stated that he had performed ten or twelve operations under the effects of nitrous oxide gas; soon, however, the number had increased to fifteen or twenty; next, it went up higher, and after reaching the intermediate stages, is finally set down in the London Lancet at fifty." Now Mr. Warren professes to be a gentleman of honor. This being the case, I will explain the mystery and seeming contradiction in the above quotation for his especial benefit, that his *modus operandi* in this controversy may be known and duly appreciated. Whenever I have specified any number of patients on whom I have operated with the gas, the date has also been given. As, for instance, in my communication where ten or twelve are named, I also stated that this was done in November, 1844; and where fifteen or twenty are given, I stated that this was the number prior to January, 1845; and where fifty are given, it embraced the whole time up to the present. Now for some reason Mr. Warren sees fit to leave out my dates entirely, and write the passage above quoted; and he seems to have adopted this policy throughout the whole controversy. If he can gain any vantage ground by such means, he is entirely welcome to it.

Respectfully, HORACE WELLS.

Hartford, June 11, 1847.

DEATH OF DR. KNIGHT BY SHIP FEVER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

DIED at Cumberland, R. I., June 15th, Alfred Knight, M.D. Dr. K. was much esteemed as a citizen, he was a skilful physician, and his loss will be deeply felt throughout the community in which he moved. He died of fever. He had been attending the patients at the Asylum who were supposed to be suffering from ship fever. Several cases of it have occurred at the Almshouse, the Superintendent himself having died of it. A large number of persons have been exposed during the last three weeks, but as yet only three have had the disease.

Will you favor your readers with your opinion relative to the questions, "Is this fever contagious?" "Is it typhus or typhoid fever?" "What is the best method of treatment?"

CLAUDIAN.

June 17th, 1847.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JUNE 23, 1847.

Mineral Springs of Virginia.—We have on various occasions, in times past, spoken of the medicinal value of these beautiful fountains, and we are again reminded of them, and of the bold and picturesque scenery of the Alleghany mountains, where nature still exhibits the rocks and trees in all their original wildness and grandeur, by a small volume, published of late by Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, of Philadelphia. It is a kind of guide book to the different springs, hardly to be dispensed with by an intelligent traveller in those mountainous regions. A better idea will be formed of it by copying the title-page, which is as follows:—"The Virginia Springs, with an analysis, and some remarks on their character, together with a Directory for the use of the White Sulphur Water, and an account of the diseases to which it is applicable: to which is added a review of a portion of Wm. Burke's book on the Mineral Springs of Western Virginia, &c., and an account of the different routes to the Springs. By John J. Moorman, M.D., Resident Physician at the White Sulphur Springs." A personal acquaintance with the author, whose experience has been acquired by a long residence on the spot, justifies us in saying that invalids may place implicit confidence in his advice. The fidelity with which he has described the influence the various mineral waters exert on the system, gives him a special claim to the consideration of persons seeking a renovation of health in Western Virginia. There are two maps in the work, which direct how to reach all the watering places on the mountain, which is of real consequence in wending one's way over the back-bone of the Old Dominion.

Transactions of the New York Medical Society.—Part 1 of Vol. viii. contains an address before the Society on mental manifestations, by Dr. John McCall; observations on the diseases of the digestive organs, by Dr. N. S. Davis; on the resources of the medical profession, by Dr. Joseph Bates; and remarks on the diagnosis of nervous diseases, by Dr. A. H. Stevens. To these is appended an abstract of the proceedings thus far in 1847, catalogues of the officers of County Societies, &c., besides much local matter. Dr. S. Hastings, of Oneida County, and Dr. H. H. Childs, of Pittsfield, Mass., were elected honorary members. The following preamble and resolution were offered on one of the last days of the session, and exhibit the punning propensity of the President, Dr. Blatchford, of Troy:—

"*Whereas*, Dr. *Paine*, of the medical department of the University of the State of New York, has taken unwearied trouble in circulating among the profession over ten thousand copies of an address delivered to his class of medical students, for the apparent purpose of ridiculing the action of this Society in reference to the calling of a National Medical Convention, therefore—

"*Resolved*, That his efforts have produced the singular *Physiological phenomenon* of rendering the profession in general, and the '*chairman* of the *committee*' in *particular*, insensible to Paine."

Dr. McCall's paper on mental manifestations shows the writer to be a man of an investigating spirit, and who evidently loves metaphysical researches. Some of his reasonings are excellent, and, as a whole, the paper gives evidence of ingenuity and energy of thought.

Dr. Joseph Bates, of Lebanon Springs, has shown us the resources of the medical profession in good earnest. He actually mows down the quacks by winrows. All the tricks of the trade are familiar to him. There appears to be nothing new remaining to hang an idea upon, on the never-ending theme of irregular practice.

The paper on the diagnosis of nervous diseases, by Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, is a plain, common sense article, of sterling value, because it is a record of facts, which is precisely what is wanted. Dr. Stevens has lived in the busy world of professional turmoil long enough to know that the substantial benefit to be derived from medical papers, comes from the authentic facts recorded in them. Especially is this the case in papers relating to nervous diseases, in which there is so much that is obscure.

Periodicity, Cause and Cure of Disease.—A little pamphlet has been lying on our desk some days, entitled "Dickson and Swedenborg on Periodicity, Cause and Cure of Disease. By Rev. T. D. Sturtevant, Portland, Maine." With half an eye, the object of the reverend author may be detected. He is to be regarded in the light of a spy in an enemy's camp. After ascertaining the condition of the town, the means of resistance, the amount of provision for sustaining a siege, he will by and by appear in some more formidable character—perhaps in the shape of an octavo in boards, or a crono-thermal treatise in calf. He is evidently sounding the minds of people in New England on the subject of this new kind of practice. In order to prepare the way for the advent of the crono-thermal method of treating diseases, the name of Dr. Dickson, of London, and that of the great Swedenborg, are coupled together on the title page of this book. Hear what the writer says of the former.—"In 1845, Dr. Dickson publicly claimed the discovery of the *periodicity* of every atom of all living bodies." Next is what he says of himself.—"Fifteen years ago, it was my fate—I can scarcely call it my *fortune*—to make two most important discoveries in medicine; namely, the Periodicity of Movement of every Organ and Atom of all Living Bodies; and the Intermittency and Unity of all Diseases, however named, and by whatever produced. To these I added a third—the Unity of Action of Cause and Cure; both of which involve change of Temperature. Such is the Chrono-Thermal System—so called from *Chronos*, Time, or Period; and *Therma*, Temperature, or Heat."

The theory of Dr. D. is as follows:—

"1. That every Organ and Atom of Living Bodies possesses Motion as an essential condition of Life. These motions, changes, or events in the system, occupy time or periods of greater or less duration. Life is made up of these changes or events. Some embrace but a moment of time—others, years; some are regular, others irregular; some are subject to the control of the will, others are wholly involuntary. Here is the ground for the first term in the name which Dr. Dickson gives his System—*Chronos*, Time, or Period.

"2. When all the organs go through their changes and motions in their natural periods of time, and in their alternate mutations harmonize with each other, the system is said to be in a state of Health. But,

"3. Disease, under all its forms and modifications, is, in its commencement, simply an *exaggeration* or *diminution* of the amount of these motions, or events, in a given time; the *exaggeration* of the movements producing the phenomena of *fever*, and their *diminution* below the normal, or healthy state, producing *ague*, or some of the numerous diseases belonging to the same family. Hence,

"4. The *type of all disease is fever and ague.* Here is the ground for the other term applied to the system; *therma*, temperature, either heat or cold.

"5. Diseases of all descriptions have *remissions*, which come under the great law of change, or periodicity. The subjects of all diseases enjoy remissions, or periods of comparative immunity from suffering. Some days they are better, and some days worse. This is the case with chronic as well as acute diseases, as those afflicted by them can witness."

One of the first and foremost disciples of this system, which is well calculated for influencing a class of minds always ready to be convinced of the probability of improbabilities, is Dr. Turner, of New York. His pamphlet was viewed in the light of a literary curiosity—and further, the fact was demonstrated in it, that there is no assignable limits to the domain of Young Physic.

Not finding a place to introduce the statements of the learned Swedenborg, as quoted by his reverence of Maine, to prove that he and Dr. Dickson entertained opinions precisely alike on points of sterling interest to the latter gentleman, we must pass on to the statement of the marrow of the matter, thus expressed: "If disease be one, its treatment must be one; or, in other words, the detection of the law of disease must establish with it the law of its treatment; a result which daily and ample experience demonstrates to have been attained."

Living in full expectation of a movement or demonstration in favor of chrono-thermalism by some disappointed limb of the profession, whose only hope of success rests upon turning traitor, by embracing the last-devised humbug in medicine, we shall defer any further remarks to a future time.

Illustrations of Medical Botany.—From the publisher, R. P. Smith, of Philadelphia, has been received No. 1 of this work—being an elegant specimen of the results of art and science combined. There are to be issued five numbers. The work is entitled "Illustrations of Medical Botany, consisting of colored figures of plants, affording the important articles of the materia medica, and descriptive letter press. By Joseph Carson, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, &c. The drawings on stone, by J. H. Colen." Those who have not yet seen a copy, have a pleasure yet to come. The accuracy of detail in these colored pictures astonishes and delights those who are not familiar with the perfection attained by lithographic representations. But an essential point is the knowledge imparted in regard to the medicinal properties of plants recognized in the materia medica. Dr. Carson freely remarks that he is indebted for many of his drawings to various writers of known authority, and he has also drawn from nature herself with marked success, by the aid of a vast collection of specimens employed to illustrate his lectures in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. The text presents a succinct account of each plant, says the preface, comprehending all the details necessary to understand its character and relations in a scientific and medical

point of view. We have no hesitation in saying that the whole profession have a common interest in sustaining this production.

Medical Student's Vade Mecum.—Through Messrs. Ticknor & Co., a copy of the second edition of a system of examinations upon anatomy, physiology, chemistry, materia medica, surgery, obstetrics, &c. &c., revised and greatly enlarged, has been placed on our table. George Mendenhall, M.D., of Cincinnati, is the author. The book is a duodecimo, 570 pages thick, and yet not too large for the pocket of a student's box coat. Whoever has it, carries an epitome of all branches of medicine. We have been quite surprised at the amount of information contained in this unpretending treatise. It is a kind of encyclopædia of medical science, which is by no means out of place when under the eye of those advanced in professional standing. Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, of Philadelphia, have given to this the neatness, in point of typographical finish, which is a characteristic of their press.

Sale of Patent Medicines in Connecticut.—A writer in the Hartford Courant intimates that the proposed law obliging venders of patent medicines to disclose the articles of which they are composed, is likely to go into operation, but at the same time thinks it would be supremely ridiculous to have it do so, as the ingenuity of those who deal in such trash is equal to any emergency, and the certainty of evading a penalty is no more to be doubted, than the future revolutions of the planets in the solar system. In Maine, where the law was made particularly stringent only one year ago, it was much the object of ridicule, and a few weeks since it was repealed, we understand, with quite as much unanimity as it was originally enacted, simply because it was of no kind of service.

Medical Department of the Army.—The Army Medical Board, which was convened in the city of New York for the examination of applicants for appointment to the medical staff of the regular army, adjourned on the 25th ultimo.

Of the candidates who were examined, the following were found qualified for appointment, and were accordingly approved:—Nicholas L. Campbell, N. Y.; Samuel L. Barbour, Geo.; George Edward Cooper, Penn.; Ebenezer Swift, Ohio; John S. Battee, Md.; Glover Perin, Ohio; P. G. Stuyvesant Ten Broeck. N. Y.; John Campbell, N. Y.; John E. Summers, Va.; Charles H. Smith, Va.; Washington M. Ryer, N. Y.

Before the same Board, Surgeon John B. Wells was examined for promotion to that grade, and was fully approved.

Fecundity of the Irish.—If Mr. Doubleday's theory be true, and it be a law of nature that the worst dieted people shall become the most numerous, then pauper relief to Ireland, in the shape of poor food, will only aggravate the evil. The effectual remedy is to give the Irish people a sufficiency of animal food; Irish produce must be consumed in Ireland instead of being exported. The standard of living must be raised; but it will not be raised by the introduction of the poor laws, and feeding the hungry crowds with

poor-house food. This will only aggravate the evil through each successive generation. Mr. D.'s book is deserving the serious consideration of political economists and statesmen.

Santonine.—This alkaloid, to which attention has been called by Berzelius, has been for some time employed by M. Voillemier, as an anthelmintic, and with satisfactory results. M. Pinel, a pharmaceutist of Paris, has incorporated it in biscuits, in which form it is most advantageously administered. These biscuits have a pleasant taste, slightly bitter, and from three to four are the dose for an adult and two for children. This dose is sufficient to expel the worms. This medicine does not produce colic or purge, but seems to act as a poison to the worms.—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

Medical Miscellany.—A government hospital has been erected at Point Isabel, 186 feet by 68, encircled by a twelve feet gallery, which has a fine appearance, from its elevated position.—Dartmouth College Medical School has published its *fifty-first* annual announcement of a lecture course, which is to commence on Monday, Aug. 2d, the introductory to be delivered by Prof. Hubbard. Some of the best physicians and surgeons in this country were educated in New Hampshire.—Typhus fever has spread astonishingly in Ireland, and is mowing down the people faster than ever.—A committee of the medical faculty of Maryland report that the ship fever introduced by emigrants is the malady described by British writers as typhus fever, but differs materially from what is called typhus fever in this country, and is contagious.—Benj. F. Joslin, M.D., of New York, late Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Union College, has published a treatise on the "Power of small Doses and Attenuated Medicines—including a theory of potentization."—The New York Medical and Surgical Reporter, which has been published weekly in that city for a short time, edited by Dr. Wagstaff, has been discontinued. The Boston Journal is again alone in this country as a weekly visitant to the medical profession.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Jackson's paper came too late for insertion in to-day's Journal. Communications from Dr. Preston and Dr. Osborn have also been received.

MARRIED,—In New York, Clark Wright, M.D., to Miss E. J. Bleeker; Edward Chastney, M.D., to Miss L. Chamberlain; Charles E. Washburn, M.D., to Miss M. A. Reed; Hugh Walsh, M.D., to Miss Elizabeth Hall.

DIED,—In Boston, Dr. A. G. Upham, a physician of great promise in his profession, and of high moral worth, of typhus fever, caught in the discharge of his duty. Dr. Upham studied his profession in Paris, and was elected Professor of Pathological Anatomy in the Med. College of Castleton, Vermont.—Dr. Ithamar D. Crawe, of Watertown, N. Y., drowned in Perch Lake, while on a botanizing excursion.—In London, T. Wilkinson King, Esq., Lecturer on Pathological Anatomy at Guy's Hospital, and Corresponding Member of the New York Medical and Surgical Society.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending June 19th. 66—Males, 37—females, 29. Stillborn, 3. Of consumption, 12—typhus fever, 18—lung fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1—infantile, 5—intemperance, 1—marasmus, 2—disease of the heart, 2—canker, 1—burns, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 4—accidental, 1—apoplexy, 1—worms, 1—cancer, 1—spine disease, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—paralysis, 3—croup, 1—brain disease, 2—convulsions, 2—ulcers, 1—teething, 1—tumor, 1.

Under 5 years, 23—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 21—between 40 and 60 years, 7—over 60 years, 9.

Treatment of Chlorosis.—M. Briquet, in the treatment of chlorosis, uses sulphate of iron, because of its solubility, in preference to the subcarbonate of the same substance. The following is his method of administering the remedy: Sulphate of iron 1 gramme, distilled water 180 grammes; m. et f. dissolve s. a. Of this the dose is a tablespoonful morning and evening. Each spoonful contains seven centigrammes, or about one grain and a half of the salt of iron. The above quantity of the solution is sufficient for daily administration for the space of a week. As to the subcarbonate, much larger doses of that may be administered; two grammes and upwards have been given without any unpleasant effects.—Dr. YANDELL's *Letters from Paris, in Western Journal.*

Sugar in the Urine.—The following very simple and easy method of detecting the presence of sugar in the urine of diabetic patients is practised in the Paris hospitals: Pour a small quantity of the urine into a glass tube, to which you add a few drops of the aqueous solution of the sulphate of copper, the tube being held in the flame of an alcohol lamp until the liquid boils. If the urine is healthy it produces no action on the salts of copper, and the liquid preserves the beautiful blue color which has been imparted to it by the copper; but if the urine contain sugar, this affects the decomposition of the salt, and as soon as ebullition takes place the mixture is observed to pass first to a green, afterwards to a fawn color, which is more deeply marked as the proportion of the sugar is greater. Liquid caustic potash may be substituted for the sulphate of copper, in which case the color of the mixture varies according to the amount of sugar present, from a yellow to a more or less deep brown.—*Ib.*

The Influence of Strychnine on the Urinary Organs.—In several cases of paralysis affecting the lower extremities and the bladder, strychnine has been employed; and it has been remarked that it, in the first place, increases the urinary secretion, then causes very frequent desire to empty the bladder, and when this is done, it is attended with some smarting. This influence on the bladder declines in proportion as the effects of the strychnine manifest themselves in the muscles of the limbs.

In one case in which strychnine was given, a varioloid eruption came out, which did not suppurate, but terminated by crusty desiccations. When this eruption came out, the paralysis declined, and the bladder acquired power.

Strychnine, from the observations just mentioned, would therefore appear to exert a stimulant effect on the muscular tunic of the bladder; and if so, its utility would be rendered probable in paralytic conditions of the bladder, whether they be idiopathic, or arise from a mechanical cause; and it would act as an adjuvant to other remedies, where a palsied state of the bladder is only symptomatic of other disease.—*French Medical Periodical.*

Modification of the Moxa.—M. Guepratt proposes to use, in the place of cotton or amadon, paper which has been dipped into a solution of subacetate of lead, and afterwards dried; or he would prefer cotton so treated, to paper. This he tears in stripe, and rolls it into small rollers, which he makes to adhere at first, on the part to be treated, by a solution of gum arabic.—*Ib.*